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 SECURITY INFORMATION
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REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania
 SUBJECT Sociological - Concentration camp

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1952

HOW
 PUBLISHED Irregular newspaper

DATE DIST. 9 Feb 1953

WHERE
 PUBLISHED Pristina, Yugoslavia

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE
 PUBLISHED Oct - Nov 1952

LANGUAGE Albanian

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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ELBASAN RRETH NEW LOCATION OF KAMZE CONCENTRATION CAMP

The Kamze-Valias concentration camp [for a description,] is now located at the Cerrik farm, Elbasan Rreth. The 500 internees in this camp lack the most elementary necessities, such as bread and clothing.

The camp is located in the middle of a field and consists of two wooden barracks. The barracks are not secured against the cold and rain. Water seeps through the ceiling, which consists of old and rotten lumber. Approximately 80 percent of the internees have pneumonia and tuberculosis; the children especially are suffering.

Food is very poor. Workers receive 600 or 700 grams of bread a day, but the bread is mixed with barley, oats, and rye.

Daily labor is so strenuous that the internees are often forced to work on Sundays to fulfill norms. They are assigned daily norms to be fulfilled within 8 hours, but the majority have to work as many as 14 hours to meet the obligations. Women are forced to perform the same heavy duties as men. Severe measures are taken if the norms are not fulfilled.

Women who are unable to work are given an allegedly lighter task, that of collecting firewood. But this task is just as heavy, since they have to travel on foot 3-4 kilometers to collect it and make the return trip with the wood on their backs. If anyone refuses to do this, the camp directorate may punish the complainant with solitary confinement without bread or water for 12, 36, or 42 hours. Some of the firewood collected is used by the camp internees, but most of it goes to the private homes of the camp officers and police.

The director of the camp is 1st Lt Zeman Saliaj, of Gjinokaster. His co-workers are: Second Lieutenant Hameti [in or fn] of Tepelene, who works in the information office; 2d Lt Marko Hogjishti, and illiterate man; and Sgt Bule Hyseni.

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On 30 August 1952 the following persons escaped into Yugoslavia from the camp: Halit Mulla Qamili, 20 years old, of Cangonj, Korce Rreth; Sami Licoll Feimi, 32, of Kuc i Zi, Korce Rreth; Hazem Berdo Laze, 19, of Dukat, Vlore Rreth; Harry Benelli from West Germany, a prisoner of war interned since 1944 in the Kamze-Valias camp, Tirana Rreth. Details of camp conditions were given by these men.

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